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09/892,490	06/28/2001	Robert Everett Parkhill	77666-10/jlo	3152
7380 7590 02/06/2007 SMART & BIGGAR P.O. BOX 2999, STATION D 900-55 METCALFE STREET OTTAWA, ON K1P5Y6 CANADA			EXAMINER PICH, PONNOREAY	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/892,490

Applicant(s)

PARKHILL ET AL.

Examiner

Ponnoreay Pich

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/10/2006 has been entered. Any well known art statements not specifically and/or adequately traversed by applicant are taken as admittance of prior art as per MPEP 2144.03.

Claims 1-12 and 14-21 are pending.

Response to Amendment and Arguments

Applicant's amendments and arguments were fully considered. Any objections or rejections not repeated below for record are withdrawn due to applicant's amendments. Only arguments that have not been rendered moot due to applicant's amendments will be addressed below.

On page 8 of remarks submitted on 10/10/2006, applicant argues for claim 3 that the amendment to add "a client interface" to claim 3 has added hardware to the claim, thus the previous 101 rejection should be withdrawn. Applicant argues that the client interface disclosed in the specification is hardware. The examiner respectfully disagrees that the amendment has overcome the 101 rejection of the system being directed towards software per se. First, it is noted that while the claims are read in light of the specification, limitations from the specification cannot be read into the claims.

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There is nothing recited in claim 3 which prevents a client interface from referring to a software interface, i.e. a computerized GUI or command prompt. Further, looking at the cited portion of the specification which applicant points to for support of a client interface being a computer apparatus as hardware, it is noted that the same paragraph (p13, lines 21-29) states that a server could be used as the computer apparatus/client interface. The IEEE definition of a server includes "a software component", see printout included with this Office Action. Thus, whether one read limitations from the specification into the amended claim or not, the recited client interface of claim 3 could be reasonably interpreted as a software client interface. Applicant's arguments for claim 15 are traversed for the same reasons given for claim 3.

As per 103 rejections, applicant argues that the teachings of Hsu and Lopez are from substantially diverse areas of technology and therefore one skilled in the art would not conclude that the teachings of the two primary references could be combined much less be motivated to even attempt to make such a combination. The examiner respectfully submits both Hsu and Lopez are from the communication technologies. Hsu is directed towards secure communication via the use of certificates. Hsu discloses that a certification authority may be a trusted commercial entity (col 2, lines 64-66). One skilled should appreciate that commercial entities operate on various business models meant to generate a profit. Lopez discloses prepaid business model in a telecommunication environment (paragraph 2). One skilled would have been motivated to incorporate Lopez's teachings within Hsu because use of Lopez's teachings may increase business for Hsu's commercial entity. It is noted that motivation to combine

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references may come from the prior art themselves, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, or the nature of the problem to be solved.

Applicant argues that the manner in which times are managed and what these times represent are different in Hsu and Lopez. That is in Hsu, certificates are constructed and may have certain expiration times. Before the certificate expires the certificate can be used as often as needed or not at all. In Lopez, time is managed on the basis of cost and allocated to a particular call only if a call is actually in progress for the entire allocated time, which is different from Hsu's expiry model of the time limited certificates. The examiner respectfully submits that the nature of an obviousness rejection necessitates that the invention of the primary or secondary reference be modified based on the teachings of the other reference, thus it does not matter if the way time is managed in each references is different as applicant is arguing. Further, a more appropriate way of equating the certificates of Hsu to the phone call of Lopez would be to view each certificate as equivalent to each individual phone call or virtual account. When a certificate is created, it has a certain lifetime. When a phone call is placed via use of a virtual account, it has an implicit time limit based on the amount of time left in the virtual account and the user can speak as long as there are minutes remaining, which is equivalent to the user being able to use the certificate as long as the certificate is within its specified lifetime.

Applicant argues Hsu does not disclose recovering cost associated with unexpired time remaining for revoked certificates. The examiner respectfully submits that this arguments amounts to attacking the references individually and one cannot

show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Applicant then argues that an improved business model is proposed by Hsu itself, thus one skilled would not be led to search for yet another improved business model or modify the teachings of Hsu according to Lopez. Applicant states that by teaching its own improvement to an existing certification process, Hsu is teaching away from other solutions to the same problem. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Applicant is essentially stating that once one solution is found, one skilled would never search for any other solution to the same problem, i.e. if something works, why improve upon it. If that were true, then many of the inventions in existence today would not have come about because there were already methods and devices which already solved a particular problem.

Applicant argues on page 12 that Lopez tracks unallocated funds rather than unallocated time. The examiner respectfully submits that the manner in which time is tracked is immaterial. Applicant's own specification states that time may be in any units (p9, lines 17-19). Even if Lopez does keep track of funds, the funds have associated time values.

Applicant argues that the teachings of Lopez wherein the allocation of funds to usage of a telephone call is not analogous to the allocation of time to the lifetime of an assertion. The examiner respectfully submits that applicant is not considering what both prior art teaches as a whole. Instead, applicant is applying a piecemeal analysis to the

references. Lopez teaches time management which could be applied to the management of time associated with Hsu's assertions.

Regarding claim 2, applicant argues Lopez does not each eroding unallocated time over time. Applicant refers back to the specification to argue what is meant by eroding unallocated time over time. However, the limitation is broader than applicant is arguing and limitations from the specification cannot be read into the claim. The cited portion of Lopez shows unallocated time being eroded whenever time is allocated, thus unallocated time is eroded time over time.

Applicant's arguments for claims 17, 18, and 11 are dependent on arguments already addressed and are traversed for the same reasons.

As per claim 3, applicant argues Hsu and Lopez do not disclose a requested lifetime. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Lopez discloses in paragraph 22 a preselected portion of time, i.e. a requested lifetime.

Applicant argues for claim 7 that the claim discloses assertion request processing that differs for combination of Lopez and Hsu at least one the basis of the different notions of time relating to the claimed assertions and the communication account management functions of Lopez. Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references. Applicant states that the limitation is different, but has not explained how it is different.

Applicant argues for claim 8 that the prior art does not teach forwarding a request. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Figure 1 of Hsu shows a user wherein the user makes a request at their own terminal and the request is forwarded to a certificate authority 20, who actually generates the certificate.

The rest of applicant's arguments based on art rejections are either based on dependency or similar to the ones already traversed above, thus are rejected for the same reasons given above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 7-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

1. Claim 7 recites a method of processing a request for an assertion between a name and a public key. In the body of the claim, it is recited that a request for an assertion is accepted, however, none of the steps recited therein shows the request being processed. Thus it is unclear how claim 7 can be a method of processing a request.... Claims 8 and 10, which depends on claim 7 have similar problems.

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2. Claims 11 and 12 contain similar problems as claim 7. The preamble refers to a method of processing a request, but the bodies of the claims do not show any request being processed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 3-6 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 3:

Claim 3 recites a system comprising a repository, a client interface, a purchase component, a request component, and a revocation component. Applicant's specification discloses that a repository is a database, which is software and a purchase component, a request component, and a revocation component as being implemented via software. Further, a client interface can also refer to software alone. Because claim 3 appears to be directed to software per se, claim 3 is not statutory. Applicant would have to recite at least one hardware component to overcome the 101 rejection.

Claims 4-6:

Claims 4-6 further define the software system of claim 3, but also do not recite any hardware, thus are not statutory. If applicant recites a hardware component for the system of claim 3, claims 4-6 would become statutory.

Claim 15:

Claim 15 is directed towards a system comprising software means and a client interface that could be implemented via software, thus is directed towards software per se and is not statutory. The claim must recite at least one hardware component to be statutory.

Claim 16:

Claim 16 also is directed towards software per se as the means for monitoring is disclosed in the specification as a software means.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 11-12, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al (US 5,982,898) in view of Lopez et al (US 2002/0103762).

Claims 1-2, 11-12, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordery et al (US 5,796,841) in view of Lopez et al (US 2002/0103762).

Claim 1:

Hsu disclose the prior art teaches:

1. Upon request, generating an assertion, i.e. certificate, between a name and a public key, the assertion having a lifetime, during which the assertion is usable to

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provide an indication that the public key is associated with the name (col 2, line 62-col 3, line 7 and col 3, lines 38-50).

2. Upon request, revoking an assertion (col 3, lines 19-26).

Hsu does not explicitly disclose:

1. Selling a pool of unallocated time.
2. Subtracting the lifetime from the unallocated time.
3. Adding any remaining lifetime to the unallocated time.

However, Lopez discloses selling a pool of unallocated time, i.e. total prepaid time (paragraph 35). Lopez discloses subtracting the lifetime from the unallocated time (paragraphs 36 and 38). Lopez discloses adding any remaining lifetime to the unallocated time (paragraph 32). It should be noted that when a portion of the total prepaid talk time disclosed by Lopez is allocated to a subscriber so that the subscriber may place a call, an assertion that the subscriber is allowed to place a call is essentially created.

Both Hsu and Lopez are from the communication art. At the time applicant's invention was made, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to incorporate Lopez's teachings within the prior art teachings of Hsu according to the limitations recited in claim 1. One skilled would have been motivated to do so because Lopez's teachings of refunding unused time would allow the customers of the commercial certificate authorities disclosed by Hsu to not worry about wasting money if a certificate

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they paid for becomes compromised and they have to cancel the certificate before the time the certificate would naturally expire. This could potentially attract more customers to use the commercial certificate authorities disclosed by Hsu. One skilled should appreciate that commercial entities would be interested in better business models which could potentially increase profits.

Alternatively, Cordery discloses:

1. Upon request, generating an assertion, i.e. certificate, between a name and a public key, the assertion having a lifetime, during which the assertion is usable to provide an indication that the public key is associated with the name (col 6, line 62-col 7, line 17).
2. Upon request, revoking an assertion (col 8, line 4-22).

Cordery does not explicitly disclose:

1. Selling a pool of unallocated time.
2. Subtracting the lifetime from the unallocated time.
3. Adding any remaining lifetime to the unallocated time.

However, as discussed above, these limitations were disclosed by Lopez. At the time applicant's invention was made, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Cordery and Lopez's teachings according to the limitations recited in claim

1. One skilled would have been motivated to incorporate Lopez's teachings within

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Cordery for much the same reasons one would have been motivated to incorporate Lopez's teachings within Hsu as discussed above. Further, one skilled would have been motivated to incorporate Cordery's teachings within Lopez because Cordery's teachings would provide a convenient payment system for use in Lopez's system (Cordery: col 2, lines 18-19).

Claim 2:

Lopez further discloses the further step of eroding unallocated time over time (paragraphs 42-43).

Claims 17 and 18:

Claims 17-18 recites limitations substantially similar to what is recited in claims 1-2 respectively and are rejected for the same reasons given therein.

Claim 11:

The prior art of disclosed by Hsu implicitly teaches the limitation of identifying an assertion to be revoked, the assertion having a remaining lifetime during which the assertion is usable to provide an indication that the public key is associated with a name (col 3, lines 19-26 and 38-50). In the cited passage, Hsu discloses that an assertion is revoked before its natural lifetime is reached due to it becoming compromised. This implies having to identify the assertion.

Hsu does not explicitly disclose the limitations of:

1. Maintaining an unallocated time, the unallocated time being time available for assertions.
2. Adding the remaining lifetime to the unallocated time.

However, Lopez discloses maintaining an unallocated time, the unallocated time being available of services (p4, paragraph 35, lines 19-24) and adding the remaining lifetime to the unallocated time (p3, paragraph 32, lines 1-10).

At the time applicant's invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Hsu's invention using Lopez's teachings according to the limitations recited in claim 11. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine Hsu and Lopez's teachings for the same reasons given in claim 1.

Alternatively, Cordery discloses identifying an assertion to be revoked, the assertion having a remaining lifetime during which the assertion is usable to provide an indication that the public key is associated with a name (col 8, lines 4-17).

Cordery does not explicitly disclose:

1. Maintaining an unallocated time, the unallocated time being time available for assertions.
2. Adding the remaining lifetime to the unallocated time.

However, as discussed above, these limitations were disclosed by Lopez. At the time applicant's invention was made, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Cordery and Lopez's teachings according to the limitations recited in claim 11. One skilled would have been motivated to incorporate Lopez's teachings for the same reasons given in claim 1.

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Claim 12:

Hsu further disclose wherein the assertion is a public key certificate (col 2, lines 12-32 and col 3, lines 38-49).

Cordery further discloses wherein the assertion is a public key certificate (col 6, line 62-col 7, line 17 and Fig 1).

Claims 3-5 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lopez et al (US 2002/0103762) in view of Cordery et al (US 5,796,841) in further view of Peyret et al (US 5,923,884).

Claim 3:

Lopez discloses:

1. A repository containing unallocated time, the unallocated time indicating an amount of time available for a service (Fig 4, items 50).
2. A client interface (Fig 4, item 20).
3. A request component operatively coupled to the client interface and to the repository, and adapted to, upon generation of an assertion having a lifetime, deduct the lifetime from the unallocated time (paragraphs 35-36 and 38). *A-subscriber operates a telephone, i.e. client interface, to request a portion of the total prepaid time be allocated to A-subscriber so that A-subscriber essentially*

becomes a virtual prepaid subscriber; thereby A-subscriber has an assertion that he/she is authorized to make a paid phone call.

4. A revocation component operatively coupled to the client interface and to the repository and adapted to, upon revocation of an assertion having a remaining lifetime, add the remaining lifetime to the unallocated time (paragraph 40).

Lopez does not explicitly disclose the assertion being an assertion between a name and a public key. Lopez also does not explicitly disclose a purchase component operatively coupled to the client interface and to the repository, and adapted to add bulk lifetime requested through the client interface to the unallocated time. Lopez does not explicitly disclose the lifetime of the generated assertion being requested through a client interface.

However, Cordery discloses an assertion between a name and a public key (Fig 1). Cordery discloses the lifetime of a generated assertion being requested through a client interface (col 6, line 62-col 7, line 17 and Fig 2). Further, Peyret discloses a purchase component operatively coupled through the client interface and to the repository, and adapted to add bulk lifetime requested through the client interface to the unallocated time (col 6, lines 45-49; col 7, lines 10-19; and col 8, lines 1-15).

At the time applicant's invention was made it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Lopez, Cordery, and Peyret according to the limitations recited in claim 3. One skilled would have been motivated to combine the teachings of Lopez and Cordery for the same reasons given in claim 1. One skilled

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would have been motivated to incorporate Peyret's teachings because his teachings would allow depleted pools of credit (i.e. time) to be replenished (col 3, lines 54-57).

Claim 4:

Cordery further discloses each assertion is a public key certificate (col 6, line 62- col 7, line 17 and Fig 1).

Claim 5:

Lopez does not explicitly disclose the system monitor when the unallocated time falls below a threshold, and notify a user associated with the unallocated time if the unallocated time falls below the threshold. However, as discussed in a prior office action, the limitations were well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to further modify Lopez's invention according to the limitations recited in claim 5. One skilled would have been motivated to do so because it would prevent a user's account from accidentally running out of time in the middle of use.

Claims 15 and 16:

Claims 15 and 16 are directed towards a means plus function version of claims 3 and 5 respectively and are rejected for the same reasons given in claims 3 and 5 respectively.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lopez et al (US 2002/0103762) in view of Cordery et al (US 5,796,841) in further view of Peyret et al (US 5,923,884) and Anvekar et al (US 2002/0069188).

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Claim 6:

Lopez does not explicitly disclose wherein the request component determines whether the requested lifetime is greater than the unallocated time, and if the requested lifetime is greater than the unallocated time, presents a user associated with the unallocated time with a set of options for remedying the insufficiency of the unallocated time.

However, Anvekar discloses monitoring the total value of an account and whether the account has sufficient value before allowing service to begin (p3, paragraph 28, lines 1-3). Anvekar further discloses if the account had an insufficient value, alerting the user to this and presenting the user with a set of options for remedying the insufficiency of the account value (p3, paragraph 31, lines 1-5).

From Anvekar's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further modify Lopez's invention such that the request component determines whether the requested lifetime is greater than the unallocated time, and if the requested lifetime is greater than the unallocated time, presents the user with a set of options for remedying the insufficiency of the unallocated time. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to do so because it would prevent a user from using more time than they have paid for. Note that Anvekar discloses that the delivery of any service desired by a customer may benefit from his teachings (p2, paragraph 21, lines 1-4), i.e. his teachings can be useful in any type of service system. The examiner asserts that providing/managing assertions is a type of service.

Claims 7-10 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordery et al (US 5,796,841) in view of Lopez et al (US 2002/0103762) in further view of Anvekar et al (US 2002/0069188).

Claim 7:

Cordery teaches accepting a request for an assertion and a requested lifetime during which the assertion is usable to provide an indication that the public key is associated with the name (col 6, line 62-col 7, line 17).

Cordery does not explicitly disclose:

1. Maintaining an unallocated time, the unallocated time being time available for assertions.
2. Determining whether the unallocated time is greater than or equal to the requested lifetime.
3. Upon determining that the unallocated time is greater than or equal to the requested lifetime, deducting the requested lifetime from the unallocated time.

However, Lopez discloses maintaining an unallocated time, the unallocated time being available for services (paragraph 35). Lopez discloses deducting the requested lifetime from the unallocated time. Further, Anvekar discloses monitoring the total value of an account and whether the account has sufficient value before allowing service to begin (paragraph 28). This reads on items 2 and 3 not met by Cordery above.

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At the time applicant's invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Lopez's teachings within Cordery's invention to maintain an unallocated time, the unallocated time being available for the service of assertions. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine Cordery and Lopez's teachings for the same reasons given in claim 1.

Further, from Anvekar's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further modify Cordery and Lopez's combination invention such that it determines whether the unallocated time is greater than or equal to the requested lifetime and upon determining that the unallocated time is greater than or equal to the requested lifetime, deducting the requested lifetime from the unallocated time. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated incorporate Anvekar's teachings because it would prevent a user from using more time than they have paid for.

Claim 8:

Cordery further discloses the further step of forwarding the request for an assertion to an entity responsible for generating assertions (col 6, line 62-col 7, line 2). The user enters a request via personal computer 204 and the user's request is forwarded by the computer to postage and certificate meter 218 seen in Figure 2.

Claim 9:

Cordery further discloses the assertion is a public key certificate (col 6, line 62-col 7, line 17 and Fig 1).

Claim 10:

Lopez further discloses the further step of eroding unallocated time over time (paragraphs 42-43).

Claims 19-21:

Claims 19-21 are directed towards a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claims 7, 9, and 10 respectively and are rejected for the same reasons given in each of claims 7, 9, and 10 respectively.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lopez et al (US 2002/0103762) in view of Cordery et al (US 5,796,841).

Claim 14:

Lopez discloses the limitations of:

1. Generating an entry in a repository, the entry including an unallocated time (p4, paragraph 35, lines 19-24 and paragraph 38).
2. Receiving a request for a service and a requested lifetime (p4, paragraph 35, lines 11-24).
3. Deducting the requested lifetime from the unallocated time in the event that a request for a service is received (p4, paragraph 35, lines 11-24 and paragraph 38).
4. Adding the remaining lifetime to the unallocated time in the event that the service is no longer needed (p4, paragraph 40, lines 14-19).

Lopez does not disclose:

1. Receiving a request for a purchase of bulk lifetime.
2. Adding the bulk lifetime to the unallocated time in the event that a request for a purchase of a bulk lifetime is received.
3. Receiving a request for an assertion and a requested lifetime, the assertion being between a name and a public key.
4. The service is an assertion.
5. Receiving an identification of an assertion to be revoked, the assertion having a remaining lifetime.

However, the as discussed in a prior office action, receiving a request for a purchase of bulk lifetime and adding the bulk lifetime to the unallocated time in the event that a request for a purchase of a bulk lifetime is received was well known at the time applicant's invention was made. For example, when a calling card is low on minutes, a user is able to buy more minutes to add to the card to increase the number of minutes available for the account associated with the card.

It would have also been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, in light of the above, to modify Lopez's invention to allow the addition of a bulk lifetime to the unallocated time in the event a request for a purchase of a bulk lifetime is received. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to do so because by allowing more time to be added to the unallocated time, it would allow a user to continually use the

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same account number for their prepaid service instead of having to get another account when the unallocated time runs out.

Further, Cordery discloses receiving a request for an assertion and a requested lifetime, the assertion being between a name and a public key (col 6, line 62-col 7, line 17). Cordery discloses the service is an assertion (col 6, line 62-col 7, line 17 and Fig 1). Cordery implicitly discloses receiving an identification of an assertion to be revoked, the assertion having a remaining lifetime (col 8, lines 4-17).

At the time applicant's invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further modify Lopez's teachings according to the limitations recited in claim 14 in light of Cordery's teachings. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine Lopez and Cordery's teachings for the same reasons given in claim 1.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ponnoreay Pich whose telephone number is 571-272-7962. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-4:30pm Mon-Fri.

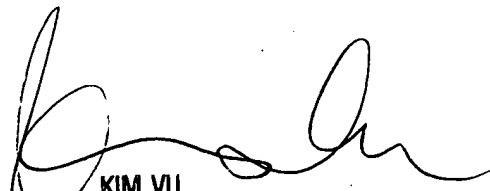
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Ponnoreay Pich
Examiner
Art Unit 2135

PP



KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100